Hingham, July 30, 1839.

My dear Caroline,

I am constrained to write to you today by many considerations. In the first place, I have nothing very urgent to do, and such precious times I like to devote to writing to my friends. In the next place, I am filled with grief, shame, and indignation, by the spirit which has been recently manifested by some of the leading abolitionists, and wish to give utterance to the feelings that move me. It is truly painful to learn, as we all have within a few weeks, that even this Enterprise, that is based upon principles so holy, so just, and so generous, cannot be carried on, without engendering party spirit and its accompanying evils, jealousy, strife, and mutual dislike. Indeed I have felt so unhappy about it, that I have almost regretted that I ever publickly joined the Cause. I am ashamed to belong to a sect or party that will recriminate, and quarrel. It shows too much of the beast to be agreeable to me. I have thought that the abolitionists were a purer set of men and women than the whig or loco-foco party in politics, but I fear that I shall be obliged to give up this opinion. Abolitionists have certainly claimed more, they have boasted enough, too much, as I think the sequel will show. How apt we are to say after a man has taken a course that we disapprove, well, I was suspicious of that man; or I did not like him exactly. I have been tempted to say it a number of times since reading Mr. Phelps's letter to Mr. Garrison in the last Liberator. The first time that I ever heard or saw Mr. P. he was in the midst of a speech upon political action. He was giving an account of the votes in the Fourth District, telling how high the whig and Van buren ticket stood, and how many votes the abolitionists would throw; that they held the balance of pow er, that they could defeat the election, or could dictate to either party what candidates they should put up. Now all this was undoubtedly true, but I had a feeling at the time, that the speech was too much after the manner of a managing politician. It seemed as though he thought more of the triumph of his party than of the principles upon which that party was founded. If political action cannot be used without stirring up all that is bad in the human character, I pray that they will away with it. If Mr May, Phillips, or Quincy, should write such letters to Mr. Garrison, as Messrs. Phelps, Torrey, & St. Clair, and give such taunts and thrusts as I hear were given at the Annual Meeting last week, I should certainly feel rather worse than I do now; for I have associated all that is just, and right, with them. But I am grieved that any among that class, who, par excellence, style themselves the true, and the good, should so far forget themselves and their creed. I have half a mind to prepare a set of resolutions condemning the spirit which these men have manifested, and see if our Society will pass them at their meeting next week. It would, to be sure, be about as impotent as the act of the frog in the fable, who undertook to make herself as big as the ox, but I hope the effect would not be quite so disastrous. Abolitionists, however, you know are bound ~~the~~ to respect the opinions of the humblest individual. But I will not talk more now of abolitionists or abolitionism, if I do I shall have no room to egotize.

I presume after seeing me in the plight that you did, when you were here last, that you wish to know the result of my medicating myself so with mercury. The visible effects passed off in a fortnight or so, after you were here. But I did not feel much relieved in my head. If I employed my mind steadily upon any thing, or used much physical exertion, I had a return of the pain. I at length drew a small blister, and obtained a preparation for it, which I renew every day, which keeps it open and discharging a little, and I have experienced the greatest benefit from it. I have never had the pain since I ~~am~~ have made the application in any considerable degree. Occasionally, if I read a little too long, or too intensely, or try to write much, I feel a few premonitory symptoms, but it never has amounted to any actual suffering. I have not felt so well for a long long time as I have for the last six weeks. The winter has been so delightful, & I have been so well & enjoyed it so much, that I cannot bear to have it pass off so rapidly. I want to catch hold of Time's Wings and stay his flight. I regret that in one short month more, it will be spring.

You probably know that George Fifield is with us. We felt very sorry, both for him and his parents, that he should be obliged to study in the vacation. Mr Smith, however, finds him better than he apprehended; thinks there is no doubt but what he will go over the ground that was required, before or by the time, that the Term commences. He is very studious. I hear that your sister Deborah is going to New Bedford. You will miss her very much after having her so long with you, and in your vicinity. I saw a letter the other day from ~~D~~ Theodore H. Weld to Mr May, and a postscript by dear Angelina. I should think that they were yet in the honey moon. She is somewhat troubled about the Peace Question. I am somewhat surprised at that, for I thought she was the most ultra of any one that I ever heard converse upon the subject when she was here. Mr Smith and Maria send their love to you. Mr Smith is all engaged in the mysteries of the human frame i.e the House I live in. Maria in the mysteries of creating flowers & leaves upon lawn. We shall be happy to hear from you when you have time & inclination to write.

yours very sincerely & affectionately
E. A. S. Smith

HINGHAM
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Mas.

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Miss Caroline Weston

Boston

To the care of Mr Henry G. Chapman. Ms.

I have just heard of the death of Miss
Davenport. How sudden & how soon!
But not too soon for her. She always seemed
to me, that she was ready and waiting to
go.
yours C. A. Smith.

Ms. A.9.2.12.7B